

Newsletter

Weekly news at St Christopher's



Dear Parents,

As we bid farewell to another term, there has been a whirlwind of activities and events that filled our last week before heading into the Easter weekend.

It's incredible how time flies, especially with Easter arriving

so early this year!

On Monday, we hosted the second part of our Parents' Evening. Whilst ringing the bell is Mrs. Jeffery's highlight, we also both enjoy speaking to parents as they arrive for their appointment, and I hope that your meetings proved to be insightful and valuable for you. Do also remember that our door is always open, so whilst these are a formal occasion to speak to class teachers, should you have any questions or queries throughout the year, you need only email in and ask for an appointment.

Additionally, we hosted an Open Morning for Prep parents, providing them with an opportunity to step into the classroom and witness first-hand the progress their child has been making. It's crucial for us to ensure that you have a comprehensive understanding of your child's development, and I know that the pupils love having the opportunity to show you their classroom.

Further excitement ensued later in the day with a visit from the Easter Bunny (aka Mr Codd) followed by Easter egg hunt for all the children.

The highlight of the week undoubtedly came on Wednesday with the Year 4 Music and Drama Showcase. Music and drama play pivotal roles in our curriculum, and help to foster creativity, expression, and confidence among our students. The performances of *The Time Machine* by 4M and *Space Travel Rap* by 4S were not merely showcases of talent but also opportunities for our Year 4 pupils to grow in confidence. Wednesday also saw the excitement of not one, but two discos—one for Pre-Prep and one for Prep. The joy and enthusiasm of the pupils were palpable, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the SCA for their

dedication and effort in organising such a delightful event.

We concluded the term with our customary final assembly today, where we celebrated the outstanding qualities of our students. The Character Counter Champions, nominated by their class teachers, embody our nine key characteristics, and it's always heart warming to read the lovely reasons provided by teachers. I will ensure to email these to each child's parents, so that you can share in the pride of your child's achievements.

And last but certainly not least, our term culminated with the Easter Hatwalk, a now beloved tradition in our school calendar. It never ceases to amaze me the creativity and craftsmanship displayed in the hats, not to mention the confidence exhibited by our students on the catwalk. Move over Milan and Paris, St. Christopher's is making its mark in the world of fashion!



Finally, in response to the valuable feedback we received from the recent parent survey, you will recognise (hopefully!) that we have implemented some minor adjustments to enhance communication and ensure it is delivered thoughtfully. We recognise the importance of timing and clarity in our communications with you, and as part of our ongoing efforts to improve, we kindly ask for your input on these changes through a brief survey. Your feedback will help us gauge the effectiveness of these measures and

make further improvements. I promise the survey will only take a few moments to complete, and we greatly appreciate your participation. Please click the link below [here](#) to access the survey. We kindly request that you complete it before our return after the Easter break.

As we enter the Easter break, I encourage you to take this time to relax, enjoy some well-deserved chocolate, and cherish moments with your family. Wishing you all a fantastic Easter, and I look forward to seeing you back at school on the 17th of April, rejuvenated and ready for the new term ahead.

Warm regards,

Mr Carter

Head Teacher

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Doodle clubs

Doodle Club has been extremely successful this term! We have focussed on mindfulness, well-being and doodling all of our favourite things! Each week, we have used a new stimulus to develop our ideas and creativity: a page about us, our favourite movie characters, a focus on Spring time, favourite foods and lots of free doodle time as well! Each child in Doodle Club has been using their very own doodle sketch book, which is now filled with intricate, individual sketches, and which will continue on into the next Doodle generation!



Social Media

You can follow us at [@stchristhehall](#) on Insta and X, as well at [@stchristhehallsport](#) to get all the inside info from school life! You can follow us on Facebook where we have St Christopher's School Group



Number puzzle

Number Puzzle Club have been busy crunching numbers with games such as Rummikub, Yahtzee and Sudoku.

Rummikub has proved particular hit this half term with many of our club members

learning how to play this game for the first time and picking this up really quickly! This is a great game for studying numbers that have been placed and considering how and where they can be moved around in order to ultimately win the game. Our younger Prep pupils were supported by our older players therefore making this a great game for team working. Particular credit should be given to our Year 5 and 6 pupils for nurturing the younger club members every week and making them feel able to participate in our games to the best of their ability.



Swimming

Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time at the end of term Swimming Gala, last Thursday. All pupils involved competed in multiple races against their peers and enjoyed displaying all the hard work they had put in throughout the term. The points were close with only 1 point between second and third place. However, the overall house champion of the Year 3 & 4 Swimming Gala 2024 is Johnson! Second place went to Campbell, third Blyton and fourth Hillary. Well done to all involved. We have been so impressed with your hard work at Swimming this term.

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St Christopher's in the Community

Mrs Coulson, our Safeguarding Governor, recently donated blood at one of the regular sessions held locally. She donates her blood 3 times a year and it takes around an hour each time.

The donation process is simple but life-saving. Donors are asked to complete a Donor Safety Check form before they attend each session and, on arrival, they are provided with a consent information booklet and a large glass of water. A private health screening follows and a small drop of blood from a finger is tested to ensure the donor's haemoglobin (iron) levels are sufficient to continue with the donation for their own wellbeing. If the donor is able to give blood, they are invited to a donation chair and the donation is taken from a vein in the arm and collected in small sample tubes and a larger blood bag which are all labelled with unique id numbers. 470ml of blood is collected in 5-10 minutes. Finally, the donor is directed to the refreshment table for a drink and snack!

The donated blood is transported to a blood centre where the samples are tested to check the donor's blood group and for a number of viruses and compared to the donor's records if they've donated before. When the testing is complete and passed, the blood packs are labelled and

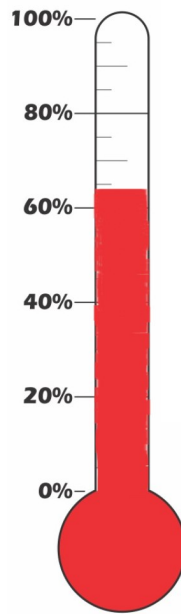
stored ready to be issued to hospitals. One donation can help up to 3 people.

On average, 4300 donations are needed daily for both emergencies and for people who need long-term treatments.

Following their first donation, donors are informed of their blood type. Blood is also tested for subtypes and the presence of certain antibodies. For example, a rare subtype Ro, is more common in donors of Black heritage and demand for this is increasing to treat blood disorders such as sickle cell. Mrs Coulson found out that she has a relatively rare blood type (B-) and that her blood is labelled NEO (meaning neonatal) as it is suitable for newborn babies. This means that it is free of antibodies to a very common virus (cytomegalovirus) which, for most people, usually causes mild or no symptoms but is very serious for babies.

A few days after donating blood, the donor receives a text message to inform them that their blood has been issued to a named hospital. Mrs Coulson's blood usually goes to a hospital in London and she receives that text with mixed feelings - very pleased that she was able to help someone in need but sorry that it was needed in the first place and wishing the patient and their family a happy outcome following their treatment.

130 Hours Target of Volunteering



Year 2

Year 2 had a wonderful time exploring the Science Museum last Friday. We have been learning about Neil Armstrong as part of our Intrepid Explorers topic in Humanities, and were able to see part of the actu-



al rocket he flew to the moon in. We also enjoyed finding out even more about space, and absolutely loved the Pattern Pod! There were so many things to look at and do throughout our visit, which encouraged lots of thoughtful questioning and conversations.

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Pupils Achievement

Nesta (2J) and Guy (RCH) have both done incredibly well at their recent unaided swimming challenge. Nesta swam a whopping 525m, which is 21 lengths, and Guy swam 70m, both surpassing expectations for age! We are very proud of their hard work & dedication.



If any pupils experience success outside of School, we'd love to hear about it, so do let Mr Carter know.

Monopoly Club

There has been a real buzz of excitement and enthusiasm in the Pre-Prep Monopoly Club.

This term, the children have been playing three games of monopoly concurrently. Each game has a mixture of independent players and others who are getting the flow of the game, they are teamed into pairs.

Typical board game skills are being learnt and practised. The children are applying their mental maths abilities which includes subtraction, counting on and multiplication (if you own a utility) and expanding their knowledge of geographical places in London.

Even though there are no coins in monopoly, there are always two sides to a coin; players understand that as you earn money there are times you may have to pay out money.

However, no one has declared bankruptcy!

The children have really enjoyed teaming up into pairs, engaging with other players and sharing tactics and strategies.



Allergy reminder:

Please do not send in snacks which contain nuts or sesame seeds.



Pokemania

At Pokemania club, we have been on our own journeys to becoming Pokémon Masters and have enjoyed sharing our Pokémon card collections each week! We have discovered new Pokémon in the Pokédex by solving challenging crossword puzzles, word searches and code breaker missions, as well as watching our favourite episodes of the series on Netflix. Using our fine motor skills and spatial reasoning, we also created a team of origami Pokémon to help us put on mini puppet shows.



Uniform Shop

After the Easter break children return to school in their summer uniform. Please order your summer uniform now, to avoid disappointment, via uniformshop@stchristophersthehall.org.uk

The Uniform Shop will also be open during the Easter break on: **Mon 15th April, 11am – 1pm**.

What's Happening Next Week

Wednesday 17th April

- School starts for the Summer Term (08:15)

Thursday 18th April

- Croydon High Swimming Gala,
Selected Year 3 - 6 Girls (14.45 - 17.30)